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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-third session
10-14 May 1993 (part I)
Agenda item 5

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL

V. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

1. At its _____ meetings on 13 May 1993, the Committee considered coordination questions under item 5 of its agenda. It had before it parts II and III of the annual overview report of ACC (E/1993/47/Add.1 and 2).

Discussion

2. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development made a statement on the actions taken by ACC at its first regular session of 1993. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for the useful information provided by him and made comments and suggestions on specific aspects of the annual overview report of ACC for 1992.

3. There was a debate on the timeliness and quality of the documentation. Many delegations expressed the view that given the delay and inadequacy of documentation as well as the inaccuracies and discrepancies in it, the Committee was not in a position to hold a substantive debate and make recommendations on the substance of the issues or to commend the report to the Economic and Social Council.

4. Some delegations suggested that in the absence of a substantive debate, the Committee should discuss its own role in the area of coordination in particular

vis-à-vis the Economic and Social Council. Other delegations were, however, of the view that such a discussion had already taken place quite recently and that it was not on the agenda of this session.

5. A number of delegations noted that ACC had been responsive and forward looking in adapting its subsidiary machinery to the changing requirements. In particular, they appreciated the attention being paid by ACC to the follow-up to UNCED, coordination of humanitarian assistance and its continuum to rehabilitation and development, and the assistance by the United Nations system the countries invoking Article 50 of the United Nations Charter and to the countries with economies in transition.

6. The representative of the Secretariat stated that the annual overview report of ACC had been delayed on an exceptional basis this year in order to reflect the results of the review undertaken by ACC at its recently concluded first regular session of 1993, of its own role and functioning, the actions taken on the follow-up to UNCED and on the coordination of humanitarian assistance. The representative of the Secretariat stated that such a situation would be avoided in the future and that it was intended that the annual overview report would cover activities undertaken by ACC during the previous calendar year. The representative of the Secretariat further stated that any inaccuracies and discrepancies in the present report would be corrected in a revised report or a corrigendum.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee reiterated that its role in assisting the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the coordination of the United Nations system continued to be based on Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) and remained valid.

8. The Committee regretted the late submission of the documentation and its inadequacy since a full report on ACC activities particularly at its first regular session of 1993 was not made available to the Committee but was sent directly to the Economic and Social Council. The statement of the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development which provided useful information on the most recent activities of ACC was not considered to be a substitute for the annual overview report on the activities of ACC in the previous calendar year, nor did the Committee consider that it made up for the inadequacy of the documentation. The Committee requested ACC to ensure that in future years it was provided with up-to-date, appropriate and timely documentation.

9. The Committee expressed dismay at the statements, particularly in sections I.B.3, III.A and B of E/1993/47/Add.1 dealing particularly with personnel and general administrative questions and on financial issues. The inaccuracies and discrepancies contained in those statements conveyed the erroneous and misleading impression that a number of Governments had neglected to honour their financial obligations to the organizations of the system. Furthermore, the language relating to personnel and administrative questions as well as to the "common country strategy" and the "integrated offices" did not reflect accurately the relevant legislative mandates of the General Assembly.

In view of all these difficulties, the Committee was unable to examine the report adequately. The Committee noted the assurances given by the Secretariat that any inaccuracies and discrepancies in the present report would be corrected in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the views expressed by the Committee prior to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1993.

10. The Committee again stressed the need for adequate preparation and timely submission of documentation for the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC.

11. The Committee noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General, including in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, in mobilizing and coordinating assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter and requested him to continue these efforts and report on the outcome thereof in the next overview report of ACC.

12. The Committee stressed that all system-wide activities undertaken by subsidiary bodies of ACC which have been abolished, particularly those relating to science and technology for development, new and renewable sources of energy and the least developed countries should continue to be coordinated by the new subsidiary machinery.

13. The Committee decided to keep this item open to enable it to consider the preparations for the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC at its resumed thirty-third session.